

## CHAPTER 316.

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*AN ACT to authorise the appointment of a Commissioner to take testimony to provide for the recording of copies of wills and other papers, of which the originals were lost by the burning of the Court House in Dorchester County, and to remedy as far as practicable the evils likely to ensue from the destruction of the records of said County.*

Passed May  
27, 1852.

WHEREAS, In the recent destruction of the Court House of Dorchester county by fire, all the records of the offices of the Register of wills, and the county commissioners of said county, were burnt and many of the records of the clerks office of said county were either burnt or lost, and it becomes necessary that these records and various original papers, wills, deeds, bonds, and so forth, thus destroyed or lost, should be established by proper evidence and authority, and it is apprehended that from the unfortunate occurrence serious and extensive evil may ensue unless prevented by timely legislation; Therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That a commissioner shall be appointed in and for the said county of Dorchester, to take and receive testimony, to establish the said records, original papers, wills, deeds, bonds, accounts, returns and all other papers so lost or destroyed, appertaining to the offices of the register of wills, county commissioners and clerk of said county, and to establish the same, according to the provisions of this act, and to perform such other duties as are herein prescribed, and shall have full power and authority to administer oaths whenever necessary in all matters before him.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the register of wills of said county of Dorchester, and he is hereby required to cause notice to be given, by advertisement in the papers published in said county, and one paper published in the city of Baltimore, and by advertisement set up at one or more of the most public places in each election district of said county, to all persons to whom letters testamentary and of administration shall have been granted in said county, in all cases where estates are not finally settled, and all guardians and masters in said county, to file with said commissioner within three months from the date of said advertisement, a full and complete account and re-

Preamble

Commissioner  
to be appointed  
to take and  
receive testi-  
mony.

Duty of re-  
gister of wills.